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Pentagon, CIA Cooperating on Psychic Spying

In past columns, I have reported that the Pentagon is engaged in "Twilight Zone" research, using psychics to spy on the Soviet Union. Now I've learned that the Pentagon is spending \$1 million a year on the project and is sharing results with the CIA.

Weird though psychic espionage may seem, top-secret reports from the CIA and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) claim remarkable successes for their long-distance mind-readers. Psychics have "seen" things deep inside the Soviet Union that they couldn't possibly have known about. And their psychic sightings were later confirmed by spy satellites or by agents.

The Pentagon project, called "Grill Flame," is being conducted by SRI, a research institute, in Menlo Park, Calif. One source insisted that the project, which was begun before 1978, was officially killed in 1982.

But sources told my associate Dale Van Atta that its apparent disappearance was a bookkeeping matter. The funding, which rose from \$200,000 to \$1 million a year, was

transferred from DIA's budget to the Pentagon's general budget.

One of Grill Flame's project leaders is a respected physicist, Harold Puthoff. And the project's top psychic, Ingo Swann, is a New York artist with an impressive record of successful "remote viewing."

He first interested skeptical SRI researchers in 1973, when he used his unexplained psychic power to throw a heavily shielded Stanford University magnetometer off track. The researchers are convinced that Swann's feat could not have been trickery.

It was also Swann who suggested the first CIA-DIA psychic project, called "Scanate." He and other psychics used their powers, with startling success, to "view" installations at secret locations, using geographical coordinates. Yet Swann has been reluctant to promote "remote viewing" as a spy technique because it often produces bad information along with good.

Rep. Charlie Rose (D-N.C.), a sensible proponent of the Pentagon's psychic research program, is concerned that the intelligence community is pushing for quick results before scientific research is completed.

Sharing this opinion is Russell Targ, a former partner in the Scanate and Grill Flame projects. Targ reportedly quit the projects in 1982, partly because the CIA and DIA wanted to skip the long-term

research and go for immediate application.

Targ also feels that Americans are entitled to know, as far as possible, what their taxes have been paying for. He has joined Keith Harary, a psychologist and psychic, in writing a book, "The Mind Race: Understanding and Using Psychic Abilities," which details and demystifies unclassified SRI experiments.

On a visit to Moscow, the authors learned that the Soviets had duplicated U.S. remote-viewing successes. "It was clear," Targ said, "that psychic research has been taken seriously at the highest level of the Soviet scientific community."

Seagoing Strategy: Federal budget-cutters are second only to the Soviet fleet on the U.S. Navy's list of enemies. This was clear in a recent secret directive from the chief of naval operations. Development of the Navy's budget, it says, has been "constrained by a significant decrement in fiscal guidance." That is, they're cutting the budget.

It continues: "Even though the Soviet military threat continues to increase and future U.S. readiness requirements seem unlikely to diminish, we will face continued fiscal constraints." The answer?

"It is imperative, therefore, to gain maximum force multipliers, such as innovative strategy, tactics and the contributions of other services and allies to naval missions . . ."